EXHIBIT A:
AMENDMENTS MADE TO PENDING CLAIMS
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 09/494,332
(ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 2049/1E285-US1)

SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

9. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein [said co-detecting is simultaneous] the HCV and HIV RNA are simultaneously co-detected.

16. (Twice amended) A method for detecting Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) RNA in a biological sample, said method comprising:

(A) performing a reverse transcription reaction using RNA derived from said sample and internal positive control (IPC) RNA as a template, at least one reverse transcription primer that will prime reverse transcription of DNA from IPC RNA, at least one reverse transcription primer that will prime reverse transcription of DNA from HCV RNA, and at least one reverse transcription primer that will prime reverse transcription of DNA from HIV RNA to produce reverse transcription products comprising (a) IPC-specific reverse transcription products, [and] (b) HCV-specific reverse transcription products, (c) HIV-specific reverse transcription products, or (d) any combination of any of the foregoing;

(B) amplifying said reverse-transcription products using one or more pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for IPC, one or more pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for the 5' noncoding region of HCV, and one or

more pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for HIV to produce amplification products comprising (a) IPC-specific amplification products, (b) IPC-specific amplification products and HCV-specific amplification products, (c) IPC-specific amplification products and HIV-specific amplification products, or (d) a combination of any of the foregoing;

wherein each of said pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for IPC comprises:

(1) forward primer 5'-CGCCAGCGTGGACCATCAAGTAGTAA-3' (IPCF1) <SEQ ID NO. 8>, and

(2) reverse primer 5'-CACGATCCTGGAGCAGACACTGAAGA-3' (IPCR1) <SEQ ID NO. 9>;

wherein each of said pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for HCV comprises:

(i) forward primer 5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25) <SEQ ID NO. 10>, and

(ii) reverse primer 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) <SEQ ID NO. 11>; and

wherein each of the pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for HIV-1 comprises a forward primer with the sequence:

5'-CTGCTTAAGCCTCAATAAAGCTTGCCTTGA-3' (JBLTR4) <SEQ ID NO. 3>, and a reverse primer specific for HIV-1 selected from the group consisting of:

(1) 5'-GGGTCTGAGGGATCTCTAGTTACC AGAGT-3' (JBLTR6) <SEQ ID NO. 4>, and

(2) 5'-TGTTCGGGCGCCACTGCTAGAGA-3' (JBLTR8) <SEQ ID NO. 5>,

wherein each of the pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for HIV-2 comprises a forward primer with the sequence 5'-GGGAGGTTCTCTCCAGCACTAGCA-3' (2LTRe) <SEQ ID NO. 6>, and a reverse primer specific for HIV-2 with the sequence 5'-GCGACTAGGAGAGATGGGAACACACA-3' (2LTR-R1) <SEQ ID NO. 7>; and

(C) detecting said amplification products

wherein detection of IPC-specific amplification products indicates the presence of IPC RNA in said sample, detection of HCV-specific amplification products indicates the presence of HCV RNA in said sample, detection of HIV-specific amplification products indicates the presence of HIV RNA in said sample, and the detection of HCV-specific amplification products and HIV-specific amplification products indicates the presence of HCV RNA and HIV RNA in said sample.

24. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 16, wherein [said co-detecting is simultaneous] the HCV and HIV RNA are co-detected simultaneously.

26. (Amended) A method as defined in claim [10] 25, further comprising:

(B) detecting said amplification products,

wherein detection of IPC-specific amplification products indicates the presence of IPC DNA in said sample, detection of HCV-specific amplification products indicates the presence of HCV DNA in said sample, detection of HIV-specific amplification products indicates the presence of HIV DNA in said sample, and the detection of HCV-specific amplification products and HIV-specific amplification products indicates the presence of HCV DNA and HIV DNA in said sample.